

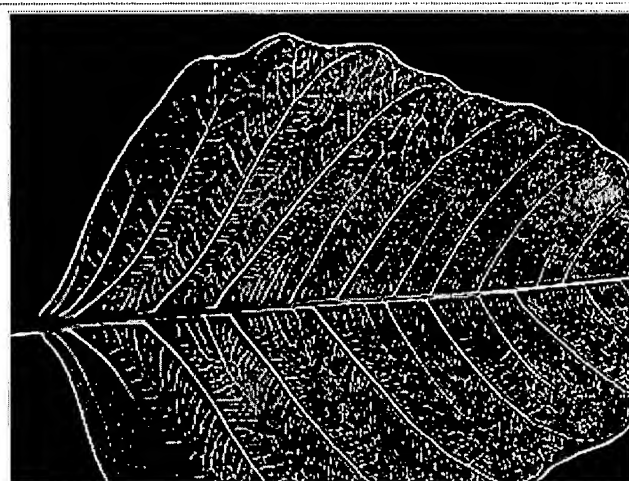
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Photosynthesis

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Photosynthesis is the conversion of light energy into chemical energy by living organisms. The raw materials are carbon dioxide and water, the energy source is sunlight, and the end-products include glucose and oxygen. It is arguably the most important biochemical pathway,^[1] since nearly all life depends on it. It is a complex process occurring in higher plants, phytoplankton, algae, as well as bacteria such as cyanobacteria. Photosynthetic organisms are also referred to as *photoautotrophs*.^[1]

The word comes from the *Greek* *photo-*, light, and *synthesis*, putting together.



The leaf is the primary site of photosynthesis in plants.

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Exhibit 1